



IN THE BIBLE

PRECEPT

SONG OF SOLOMON 1:4, 8:6-7

⁴ We will rejoice in you and be joyful; We will praise your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.

⁶ The passion of love bursting into flame is more powerful than death, stronger than the grave. ⁷ Love cannot be drowned by oceans or floods; it cannot be bought, no matter what is offered.

PROMISE

Life without love means no compassion, no peace, no comfort, no caring, no giving, and no kindness. Life will be full of bitterness, unforgiveness, and selfishness without it. If there is no love, there is no sense to live. Our view of love will impact everything about our life, it is imperative that we understand how love is described in the Bible and how significant it is in our life. Today's message focuses on *eros* which talks about romantic love; the passionate, healthy, physical expression of arousal and sensual intimacy between a husband and wife. This is the kind of love that is celebrated within the boundary of marriage, reserved exclusively between a man and a woman. This is God's design, gift, and beautiful blessing to married couples. For the unmarried followers of God, this also applies as Jesus describes Himself as the bridegroom, and we, His church, is the bride. Song of Songs 1:2-4 describe the passionate love God has for us. It says, *"² Kiss me and kiss me again, for your love is sweeter than wine. ³ How pleasing is your fragrance; your name is like the spreading fragrance of scented oils. No wonder all the young women love you! ⁴ Take me with you; come, let's run!"* This poetry illustrated the passionate love of King Solomon for his new bride; and hers for him. This must be the picture of each marriage and also our relationship with the Lord. Here are some indications that you are loving passionately in your relationship with your spouse & with Christ:

YOU EXPERIENCE JOY IN THE RELATIONSHIP (1:4). Song of Songs 1:4 says, *"We will rejoice in you and be joyful; We will praise your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you."* There is mutual pleasure and gratitude in your relationship with each other. There is delight and happiness in your relationship and joy is present in the ups and downs, highs and lows.

YOU ARE PROUD OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP (6:4, 8-9). You love everything about each other even with each other's flaws, just like how God is madly and deeply in love with us. With every part of you, your partner is proud of you and the relationship matters to each of you.

YOU PRIORITIZE YOUR RELATIONSHIP (8:6-7). You love spending time and desire to be with your partner, not taking the person and the relationship for granted. There is mutual respect that's why the relationship flourishes in love. You desire to know more about the person and prioritize your relationship. For the married couples, when was the last time you had a date and talked with your partner without interruption? Same question applies to those who have a relationship with God. Reflect and take action as He is waiting for us to spend time with Him.

YOU ARE SECURE IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP (7:10). You can be yourself without hesitations and fear of judgment, and you are comfortable being yourself that you do not need to pretend to be someone you're not. Song of Songs 7:10 describes how it is to be secure in a relationship. It says *"I belong to my lover, and he desires me."*

YOU MAKE THINGS EXCITING IN THE RELATIONSHIP. (2:7, 3:5, 8:4). You are excited to grow together and desires to achieve your vision together. You pursue to become a better person for your partner and for the Lord.

PRACTICE

1. Response to His Love. Knowing that God is truly, madly, deeply, and passionately in love with us, what should be the proper response to His love for us?

2. Married Couples: How can you love passionately in your marriage relationship?

Singles: How can you love God passionately and make the waiting process exciting?

PRAYER

I. Direction

- May God continue to direct the paths of our church and each of us as we journey in our Christian walk.

II. Small Groups

- Pray that our members become part of small groups and that they will grow in love with God.

III. Discipleship

- Pray that there will be intentional discipleship inside and outside households, churches, etc.

IV. Families

- Pray for all families to be knitted in love and unity. May they all seek God together.

V. Provision

- Pray for God's provision for the needs of each of us. May each of us also be a blessing to others.

VI. Growth

- May we all pursue growth in all aspects of our life especially with our intimacy with the Lord.

VII. Missionaries

- Pray for peace, wisdom, and guidance for all missionaries all over the world in doing God's work.